

Inculcate- morals and ethics in students: PM

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'Those having only knowledge cannot contribute to nation's progress'

KOTA KINABALU, Tues: Educators must endeavour to incorporate good morals and ethics in students under their charge, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today

Students equipped with knowledge but devoid of good morals and ethics would not be able to contribute to society or the country's progress.

"Morality and ethics must be inculcated as students pursue their studies in various fields to enable them to put their education to good use," he said when opening Universiti Malaysia Sabah's main campus at Teluk Likas.

Mahathir said that without education, the people would be left behind in a fast-changing world dominated by the developed countries, especially those that had advanced quickly in information technology and communications.

"These countries dominate the less advanced countries and manipulate through their mastery of IT and thus could cause havoc to our currencies, stock markets and prices of our commodities as the necessary information is at their fingertips," he said.

He was disappointed with bumiputra students who spent too much time on activities not related to their studies.

He said the government spent huge sums of taxpayers' money to build schools, colleges and universities so

that the younger generation could have a good education.

There had been some progress after the quota for bumiputra students in institutions of higher learning was increased but the average performance was not very good.

"They usually obtain simple passes and only a few excel in their studies. This is because they concentrate more on non-academic activities," he said.

Mahathir said the government had built many public universities to enable all communities to obtain tertiary educations so the country could compete in an increasingly borderless world.

"I always keep in mind that with globalisation, those graduating from our universities will have an important role in the new millennium. They must master IT and related technologies as we can no longer continue to survive

in isolation," he said.

He said the threat had already been made obvious by the vicious attack on the economies of the developing countries in Asia by the advanced countries a few years ago.

"The danger is still there. They can still use the Internet and other means of instantaneous communications to depress our commodity prices. So, we must master IT to hold our own," he said.